

# University seminar part of new left activism

By BRIAN CAMPBELL  
Acting News Editor

Whether students' council likes it or not, this campus is growing an activist new left.

The defunct Pro-CUS Committee, the CIA (Campus Involvement Association to you), The Seminar on The University, and the cell in the New Democratic Youth House at 11137-89th Ave. are, or were, arms of an amorphous group dedicated to the new left "philosophy." And the philosophy is "a philosophy of activism as opposed to pacifism" according to Barry Chivers, ex-NDY president on campus and a participant in all these ventures.

He didn't bother to say who the "pacifists" are, but it is clear when the new lefters talk they mean the administration, students' council, and the general status quo in society.

The least obvious activity the new lefters support is The Seminar on The University.

This is the brain-trust for the

group's education action policies.

The seminar was the idea of Gordon Weiss, a long-time Student Christian Movement member, and some of his friends in the organization. The idea spread by word-of-mouth last year and blossomed this fall in a series of discussions. So far there have been four meetings including one for organization.

Sounds dull until the slow, grating, noise of revolution appears in the background.

"Last year the organization just sort of evolved," said Chivers. "At the first meeting this year we only had 15 people, so we went on to discuss what our approach should be."

"We agreed something was wrong with the system—and that was the common denominator."

At the meeting they elected a steering committee with some familiar names—Barry Chivers, Bruce Olsen, Donna Petroski, Gordon Weiss, and Cathy Kujath—and decided on a program.

Since then they have had three panel discussions followed by open question periods. Attendance is 30-35 at the meetings now.

They heard Dr. Sam Smith, who heads the administration end of the Academic Planning Committee, talk about what's wrong with the university and the channels of change. They heard him blame the mess in post-secondary education on campus communication.

The next session saw Dr. D. B. Scott, a computing scientist, and political scientist Dr. Grant Davy discuss curriculum planning in the university.

Dr. Scott was called in to represent the administration viewpoint of Dr. Max Wyman, who had to cancel at the last minute.

Scott gave a "condescending lecture on universities up to the present day and tried to justify things as they are now," Chivers said.

Prof. Davy talked about the ad hoc methods the administration uses to draft and change courses.

The administration has little



BARRY CHIVERS  
... campus activist

more than cursory notes from real teachers and not much more information to make decisions, he said.

"But he went on to chide us for being a bunch of children for taking an interest where we had none—in university curriculum. Dr. Scott agreed with him."

"And that was when war was declared," Chivers said. Since then they have formed an action group to investigate educational experiments.

There was a discussion of free universities by Anglican Chaplain Murdith McLean at the next meeting.

Most of the meetings have had a strong faculty delegation present.

"Mrs. Sparling, dean of women, has attended most of the meetings," Chivers said.

Usually they are about a quarter of the people present, but last meeting they were up to a third, he said.

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## The Gateway

VOL. LVII, No. 18, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1966, SIXTEEN PAGES



—Forrest Bard photo

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT ASSOCIATION GETS DOWN TO BRASS TACKS  
... a new "conscience" for council

## CIA to serve as conscience for Council

### Campus activists want informed student body

By ELAINE VERBICKY

Student activists have formed a "conscience" for U of A students' council.

And the conscience, the Campus Involvement Association, (CIA for short) intends to speak out on council's sins.

"We want to confront students with the important issues, and this means confronting students' council, asking them 'what are you doing about universal accessibility or the situation in Lethbridge?'" said Bruce Olsen, former Pro-CUS committee chairman, at an organization meeting Monday.

The CIA, a phoenix rising from the ashes of the Pro-CUS committee, will politicize the campus, trying to make students aware of im-

portant issues in the university community and outside of it.

Sue Boddington, co-chairman of the CIA steering committee, said, "The CIA will be providing an organized voice on campus for opinion other than that of students' council."

The 17-member steering committee was appointed Monday to formulate policy. Once every month the CIA will put action before a general meeting of the student body for approval. These meetings will be impartially chaired by Bruce Olsen and Richard Price, ex-students' union president.

"This will be more of a political relationship than the relationship between students' council and the student body," said Pat Connell, member of the steering committee.

When asked if the CIA was supposed to be a shadow government to students' council, the committee said definitely, "No."

### Favors involvement

"But if you consider a political relationship a government, then yes, CIA will be a student government," added Connell.

To do the job, CIA has set up sub-committees in international affairs, the CUS question, universal accessibility, university reform and Indian affairs.

This is where CIA feels council is wrong on its philosophy of non-involvement in extra-university affairs.

CIA will fill the gap.

The CIA will put up a slate of its own or sponsor a slate in the next

general student election. Before that it hopes to bring about a referendum on the CUS withdrawal.

"If these people are questioning the nature of council's decisions, all I can do is smile," said students' union president Branny Schepanovich. "We have some of the most competent councillors this year who have ever sat on student government."

"On the conscience bit, let them not forget that councillors have been elected by the students. No other group can ever amount to anything more than a shadow", Schepanovich added.

## McGill Daily editor gets axe

MONTREAL (CUP)—Researchers beware! Don't divulge little secrets to any sneaky reporters who might be lolling about—you may stop the press.

That's what happened with a story ran in the McGill Daily on Remembrance Day. The editor of the paper was fired, and 52 members of his staff quit.

The paper's long-standing feud with its students' council boiled over when The Daily published an article claiming a McGill professor is conducting a research project designed to aid the U.S. war effort in Vietnam.

"Dr. Raymond Yong, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of the Soil Mechanics Laboratory, is trying to discover a method of determining soil solidity from the air," the article began.

The Engineering Undergraduate Society immediately drew up a resolution demanding

the resignation of editor Sandy Gage and his entire editorial board. This seems to have been just what council was looking for.

The engineers claimed that the article was "a blatant attempt to slander and libel a member of the McGill University faculty."

In the article, Dr. Yong was quoted: "the U.S. Government considers this information secret and I was required to sign a statement pledging to keep it confidential." This was denied by both the U.S. embassy and RCMP.

Doug Ward, president of CUS, said the investigation machinery of Canadian University Press should have been called in before Gage was fired.

Since then, a CUP investigation commission has been appointed, and will probe the firing. The commission was called by Jim McCoubrey, president of McGill students union.